



Esprit

Volume 42 No.6 www.mvs.usace.army.mil

Champion of Your Heartland's Water Resources



Completed Ste. Genevieve Levee Passes First High Water Test—No Sandbags, Just Business as Usual

Flood crest passes, city high and dry

These *St. Francois County Daily Journal* “good news” headlines about the successful performance of the Ste. Genevieve levee project during recent high water focused even USACE Headquarters attention on the city of Ste. Genevieve and their new levee. The article in its entirety was placed on both the MVS and USACE websites. This is the first high water event since the levee’s completion in which the historic river city needed protection. “The Great Flood of 1993 wreaked economic havoc on ...the city’s tourism-oriented businesses. Rather than shop for antiques..visitors filled sandbags. “ One resident stated, ” It is kind of strange. Everybody is going about business as normal, not even thinking about the flood. A few years ago, we would have been ...getting ready to fill sandbags.” **Now that’s a success story!**



The new pump station atop the new levee looks down on the rising waters of the Mississippi, while the city of Ste. Genevieve stays safe and dry.

Commander's Perspective



COL Michael R. Morrow

You should all be proud.....

As evidenced by recent events, security and safety for the district team continues to be an important subject that I would like to re-emphasize. Each of us is responsible for our own personal security. We all must be pro-active in our personal security in the same way we are with safety in a home or on the water. Take common sense measures to become aware of your surroundings and reduce risk. Each of us must take the extra time to assess any situation, whether in the \$2 parking lot or out on a remote site. Take the time to look around and see if anything is out of place. If you feel uncomfortable, leave or take steps to avoid the situation. I have asked representatives from the St. Louis Police Department to come talk with us at the next town hall meeting and give all of us some tips on ways to improve our personal situational awareness. Each of you keep alert and stay safe!

As I begin my final year as your commander, I just wanted to briefly reflect on some of the things I have noticed as I travel around the district. I appreciate all the good work every single district team member contributes to the success of the district's mission. The dedication of the district team continues to always impress me. The number of prestigious awards earned by the St. Louis District team shows me that I am not the only one noticing the level of quality work done here. All of you should be proud (as I am) to be part of this team. Essayons!



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Louis District**

ESPRIT is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published monthly, by contract, in 1450 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

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A Rewarding Experience, But Glad to be Back in the USA

By Nancy Connor

I was presented with a great opportunity when I was selected to go to the Far East District in Seoul, Korea to assist users with the deployment of PD2. PD2 is DOD's Standard Procurement System that has replaced our SAACONS. Our district has been using PD2 since October 1999, but there were problems with the OCONUS sites deploying at that time because of the use of foreign currencies.



Nancy receives a District coin from Mr. Kim.

It was a terribly long journey. I left St. Louis, Friday, April 13, about 9:00 am and arrived at my hotel in downtown Seoul 23 hours later. Needless to say, my body clock was off. It took several days to adjust to the 14-hour time difference.

The Far East District's Contracting Division consists of 17 employees, 4 Americans and 13 Koreans. They were all most appreciative for my help. All but one of the Koreans in the office could speak English, so I did not have too much trouble communicating. When I did have difficulty, my co-workers interpreted for me.

My stay was brief, just two weeks, but very enlightening. I was able to sample the Korean foods, yes, even Kimchi (it was strongly recommended that I not try this.) The foods are quite spicy--lots of hot sauce and garlic and mostly vegetables, little sugar. Now I know why they stay so slim.

Shopping is a favorite pastime for Americans in Korea. Clothing and leather goods are considerably cheaper in Korea than the states because they are manufactured there. I compared shopping to going to a county fair where the vendors would try their best to pull you into their booths to sell their wares.

It was a wonderful experience that every US citizen should take advantage of if given the opportunity. It made me appreciate the freedom I have here. I don't have to worry about the million North Korean troops advancing toward the DMZ and the 600 long range missiles that impact two minutes after launch--pointed at my city. And now I also know a little of what it feels like to be a minority even for such a brief period. The words, "Welcome Back to the US" never sounded so good as they did when I came through customs upon my arrival in Chicago.



Happy Hour at the Navy Club with new friends. Note the American influence in the background.



Nancy and friends in the garden at the Dragon Hill Lodge—her home3 on base.

Quote of the month: Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation. Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

St Louis District Wins Army-wide Internal Review Award of Excellence



The Department of the Army selected the St Louis District Internal Review Office, with Mike Banovz as Chief and sole auditor, as the top Internal Review Office for FY 2001 in the small office category. Mike, a Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), has served as Chief Internal Review Auditor since 1988. Mike's nomination was based on the exceptional audit products and services which contributed significantly to the district's mission success. Award criteria included the auditor's consideration as a valued member of the management team; the meeting of current and emerging needs of decision-makers; quality control exercised, and the auditor's contribution to the IR community.

As one of 11 nominated IR offices competing in the small office category, the St. Louis District once again nosed out the competition and came out on top. Mike has distinguished himself by providing outstanding professional audit products and services in a quantity and quality not normally expected from, or generated by a one-auditor office. During the nomination period Mike completed numerous audit projects involving Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Act audit validations and audit liaison engagements/projects in conjunction with U.S. Army Audit Agency audits of Corps of Engineers' financial statements. In addition, he frequently assisted other district IR Offices by sharing his knowledge, experience, and improved and streamlined office operations. Mike's prior audit efforts significantly contributed to the district's exemplary Engineer Inspection General (EIG) inspection results of our IMPAC purchase card and accommodation checks programs.

Anyone who has worked with Mike for any length of time knows that he epitomizes honesty, accuracy, accountability and strict adherence to regulations. In a difficult position that could invoke an atmosphere of conflict, Mike's true dedication, professionalism and sincere manner of performing his role of "watchdog" in a positive manner typically result in a willingness to cooperate. That is also quite an accomplishment. Mike, and winners in other categories, will be honored 23 August 2001 at the annual Awards Banquet in conjunction with the Internal Review Training Symposium in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Employee of the Month



Ms. Teresa Montgomery is the June 2001 employee of the month. Teresa is the secretary at Lock and Dam 25 in Winfield, MO, and is responsible for all administrative duties at that location. As everyone knows, the secretaries are the ones who "really run the office." In addition to her normal excellent performance, Teresa's extra efforts over the past 10 weeks have contributed significantly to the daily success at a variety of locations within the Rivers Project area. She has also kept up with the administrative duties at Melvin Price Lock and Dam while the Mel Price secretary was on maternity leave. When requested to help out occasionally at Mel Price, Teresa gladly agreed even though it necessitated weekly trips to Alton, IL. She enjoys helping others so she did not perceive this as a burden. She also found ways to help others help themselves with her telephone advice and knowledge of the district's computer systems. She is periodically called upon for advice on various CEFMS and PPI issues by The Rivers Project Office.

Teresa loves her job. In her words, "I don't have a typical secretarial job. I have a beautiful view of the Mississippi River and the Illinois bluffs, I see many forms of wildlife all year, I love to watch the eagles in winter, I enjoy helping others, I learn a lot and I work with good people. How could I not love this job?" Teresa's dedication and positive attitude are contagious. The entire District team thanks you, Teresa, for a job very well done.

Hard Work + Determination + A Little Help From My Friends = My New Body—My New Life

By Roger T. Siller

My story began 28 October 1982 when an auto accident put me in the hospital for almost six months due to a partially severed lower left leg. Gaining weight was very easy to do while rehabbing. My top weight was 251 lbs by 2000. Problems with sleep apnea brought me to my doctor who told me the apnea was created by the excess weight. After being told I had the body weight of a 6'5" football linebacker, but nine inches too short, I knew I needed to take appropriate action. I began an exercise program of walking and swimming 100 laps everyday. I also went on a 1000 calorie a day diet. Most of the weight that I lost in the beginning was because I had given up fast food. I lost 37 pounds 45 days after beginning the diet. After achieving the total weight loss, I then altered my food consumption to 1500 calories a day.

Upon reaching my goal weight of 161 pounds, I knew I needed to do something with the excess flab, so I consulted Rocky Fountain with the Fed Source Life Center. Rocky devised a weight program designed to increase my muscle mass to fill in the gaps left by my weight reduction. I started my program under his guidance in October of 2000. With discipline, I was able to increase my muscle mass by 21 lbs. I went from a 41" waist size to a 33" waist size, all within a year, but not without proper discipline. I am still consuming 1500 calories a day to maintain my body weight. With the weight training equipment available in the Fed Source LIFE Center, anyone can achieve his or her fitness goals. **You have to really want to do this for yourself. It doesn't come easy!**



The old Roger



The new Roger (with old pants)

Fit-to-Win Works

By Rocky Fountain, Fed Source Life Center Certified Personal Trainer

Roger Siller is a perfect example of a successful Fit to Win program. The weight loss formula that Roger used was similar to the calorie-counting formula used in the six-week "A New Century-- A New You" lectures by Amanda Brown (the Fit-to-Win coordinator).

When Roger joined the Fed Source Life Center, he had already lost the weight. But I felt that his daily caloric intake was too low to achieve optimum "balanced" physical fitness, which consists of cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and strength training. Based on Sports Nutritionist Nancy Clark's guidelines and the food guide pyramid (with which Roger was well acquainted), an exercise program was designed to fit his needs and requirements to help reach his fitness goals.

Once Roger started, the process became a time game--meaning the number one excuse for failure is Lack of Time! Because it took time to put the weight on or to get out of shape, it also takes time to reach your ideal weight. If your body or health has changed since you have gotten older, that's natural and to be expected. To slow down that process and to gain or regain optimum physical fitness, you need to design a fitness/wellness program to improve your quality of life.

Visit or join us and let us help you reach your goals. This is done by preparation, **your** dedication, and **your** determination along with a team effort by Mendy Dolle (summer intern), Jason Wilson (the Fit to Win coordinator / Assistant Director) and Rocky Fountain (certified personal trainer / Director), of the Fed Source Life Center. As always, please consult your doctor before starting a new diet and/or workout.

Real Life Science 2001 -- An Educational Experience

On 2 May, the St. Louis District held its annual Real Life Science Exhibition at District Headquarters and the Service Base. Based on visitor/employee comments and student evaluations, the objective of informing students of how their classroom studies relate to real life and how engineering and science technology impacts their daily lives was well met. As usual, all Divisions were well-represented in some capacity and everyone (employees included) left with a better understanding of real life technology and a renewed inspiration to learn. Visitors numbered 186 students, including a scout troupe who earned a merit badge by participating in the event and uncounted adults. Employees from all over the District participated in the event, which again prove its worth as an educational and community outreach activity. Since a picture truly is worth 1,000 words, the following depicts just a small sample of Real Life Science 2001.



Guests sign in and receive informational Welcome packets at the Registration Desk.



Col Morrow mingles



Corkey —the kid magnet!



Jacque Mattingly uses clean dirt to show future FUSRAPPers how to find HTRW.



Protective gear is in this year.



Experienced Disaster Response specialist, Tom Niedernhofer relates real life experiences as he tells his part of the Corps story



This gas mask is cool



Kids can't get enough of Mark Twain Lake Ranger Chris Coe's critters



No one gets past Wappapello Ranger Andrew Jefferson without a lesson in water safety



The scouts discover that the history of the Mississippi River, the District, and the city are inseparable.



Craig Littiken oversees the Conroy family's locking operation

Building Bridges—Always a Highlight



Deanne oversees construction



Chief Quigley presents his professional opinion



Do we have enough people in here?



I think the hard hats mean they want us to work



Jeff Stamper leads the James gang



About this map-making. We're supposed to tell you how to do it.

At the request of the St. Louis Public Schools Career Education Office, a new General Business program was introduced to accommodate the special math and business programs students. Students learned not only "How the Corps Does Business", but were also given valuable information concerning the overall business process, the project management perspective and the importance of teamwork. General Information needed to succeed in the business world included strong focus on a positive attitude, emphatically put forward by Angela Sanders and Glenn Chatman.



Tom's overview preceded the Angela chant: "Procrastination is the assassination of motivation!"



RM & IR, aka, "The Money People" line up. Yes, they did hold the students' attention.



Tim led in with a little-known Fifth Amendment connection to the Corps Real Estate Program. We're not telling—ask Tim.



Students learn the importance of contracting to the Corps, and to business in general, and how we maintain our checks and balances



Teamwork Teamwork Teamwork



Some winners of the Lo Williams RETrivia Contest proudly display their trophies

90 Years Young



Cutting one's own 90th birthday cake is an accomplishment we all strive for, but few attain.

The St. Louis District and retirees wish to extend hearty congratulations and a big Happy 90th Birthday to Daniel B. Courtney, district retiree. Dan worked at the Service Base as a radio technician many years ago. He now enjoys the good life in Bradenton, Florida, and also celebrated his 35th retirement anniversary from the Corps this year—he's been retired just about as long as he worked. (Now how many of us can do that?) Dan, we wish you much luck and good health. We would love to hear from you—we can only imagine the stories you carry in your memory. May you celebrate many more birthdays.

Retiree Report-April, May, 2001

Jim and Georgia Petersen reported that they had a wonderful time in Florida. Their "residence" was right on the ocean. Their back door opened right on the beach. It made the St. Louis winter seem very short. They visited Mike and Naoma Cullen, who are doing just fine. Lee and Ellie Robinson, Dennis and Virginia Gould "blew" in for the luncheon. Lee said the wind was so strong in his parts that it swept them right to the Salad Bowl.

Larry McCarthy recently visited with the District's Personnel Office people--all 5 of them. He reported several new retirements and said that the District had recently published an April Fool ESPOOF, a take off of the ESPRIT, but much funnier. A copy was available and the portion on retirees was read, to the enjoyment of all. Gordon Davis was officially welcomed into the "cabbage patch" group, by Charlie Denzel. Gordon is feeling fine after his open heart procedure and completion of the rehab program. (Good thing Gordon, Charlie and Pete didn't attempt to compare scars, or the health Department would have closed the restaurant.) They all look great, considering their ordeal.

Retirees appreciated the receipt of the Survivor Letter that accompanied a recent ESPRIT. The question was raised whether those retirees who elected to receive the ESPRIT by e-mail received the letter. (Ed. Note: The letter was sent to all retirees on the mailing list with the hard copy ESPRIT).

Bob Muffler is suffering from the "elements". A recent hailstorm "customized" his cars and his garage, and he was deeply disappointed because, as an attorney, he couldn't get legal satisfaction--no one to sue. Don Wampler reports that Bob Maxwell is doing great since his knee replacement and has been so busy that he is finding it difficult to make the retirees' luncheon. Age doesn't seem to be slowing Bob down, he just takes a little longer getting where ever he goes.

Charlie Denzel said the Bob Lutz family will be in their new home sometime in July and welcomes visitors to Kimberly City for lunch as they will have plenty of room. Unfortunately, they are always traveling and the chance of finding them home is remote. (Thanks for the invitation, Bob.) Charlie has lunch with John Jansen every Wednesday and John is getting ready to get back to tennis. (He is probably practicing and looking for someone in his age bracket.)

Lew Scheuermann and his wife planned to participate in the Senior Olympics. They already have a Gold Medal for bowling and he received a ribbon for golf. (Who said Lew was old?)

Ed. Note: Condolences to the family of Elmer Huizenga, who passed away 15 June 2001. Elmer served the St. Louis District for 37 years, 21 years as Chief, Real Estate Division. He directed real estate acquisitions for many major district projects, including the St. Louis Flood Wall, Alton Dam and Canal, Carlyle, Rend, Shelbyville, and Mark Twain Lakes. He was honored as Federal Civil Servant of the Year in 1964 and cited by President Ford for his dedication and noteworthy improvements of government operations in the St. Louis District. Elmer retired in 1973. Known for his great sense of humor, Elmer's interests included theater, golf, ball room and square dancing. A memorial service was held on 20 June--what would have been his 86th birthday.

Our condolences to the family of Vera Oheim, who passed away suddenly on 14 June 2001 at age 90, in Signal Mountain, TN. She was the wife of the late Lowell Oheim, district retiree.

News from the Field

Wappapello Lake

Make Every Month “Safety Month”!

By Ranger Willie B. Safe



I was thrilled to learn that COL Morrow designated July as “my” month at the District last year, and, I felt compelled to check in with my teammates at home this month. It occurred to me that while most park rangers are, like me, out vigorously promoting water safety to the public, it wouldn’t hurt

to “preach to the choir” as well. I know you have Gary and Kathy and the crew doing a great job in your Safety Office, but I want to get my licks in too! Please allow me a few moments to refresh you on some very basic tips to keep you safe around the water this summer.

First of all, the leading causes of drowning are poor swimming ability, not wearing a life jacket, hypothermia, and using drugs and/or alcohol. However, just knowing this is not enough. The biggest danger we face is a false sense of security. Two-thirds of all drowning victims never intended to be in the water! It should be no surprise, then, that nine out of ten drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. Most people drown within 10 to 30 feet of safety and in less than 60 seconds. Sadly, drowning is the second leading cause of traumatic injury in children (1-19 years of age).

Okay, stay with me here, it’s not all bad news. You and your family can enjoy the water without fear! Just ALWAYS practice a few simple precautions.

1. Learn to swim! That means HOW to swim, WHERE to swim, WHEN to swim, etc.
2. Always swim with a buddy. If something goes wrong, someone is there to help.
3. Wear your life jacket! It won’t work if you don’t wear it.
4. Never dive into lakes or rivers. The riverbed or lake bottom is constantly changing.
5. Don’t depend on inflatable toys, inner tubes, or rubber rafts to keep you afloat.
6. Never pretend to drown. Someone else could get hurt trying to help you.

7. Learn the boating “rules of the road”.
8. Learn the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP) to ward off hypothermia.

Please share this information. We are all safety ambassadors. COL Morrow always says to tell the Corps story. Tell your family, friends, coworkers, and anyone you see. Don’t let it stop with July or water safety. Make every month “Safety Month”! (If you could see me now I’m giving you a “thumbs up”).



L-R: New employees Jim Griggs, Chris Doran, Chad Wiseman, and Jared Caldwell are working with the Recreation/Facility Management Team this summer.

Mark Twain Lake

Partner Receives Water Safety Award

On behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mark Twain Lake Operations Manager David Berti presented the National Water Safety Congress Award of Merit to Refreshment Services Pepsi with for their role in promoting water safety. This award is presented annually to individuals, organizations or agencies in recognition of outstanding efforts, accomplishments and contributions to promote water safety at the community level. Refreshment Services Pepsi partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to promote boating and water safety in the region, including Northeastern Missouri and the Quincy, Illinois area. Refreshment Services Pepsi provided water safety T-shirts to be used as prizes and incentives for various area events and water safety programs presented by the Corps at Mark Twain Lake.



The Mark Twain staff welcomes new student park rangers, Hannah Silver, Jeremy Crossland, and Ryan Watson. Hannah lives in Hannibal and

attends Southwest MO State U where she majors in Wildlife Biology. Originally from Palmyra, MO, Hannah graduated in the top 10 of the Dean's List twice. Jeremy Crossland is from Macomb, IL, attends Western Illinois U and previously worked for the Rock Island District. Jeremy enjoys hunting, finishing and canoeing. Ryan Watson lives in Monroe City, MO and attends Northwest MO State U where he majors in Middle School Education and General Social Sciences.

Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project by Tara Jansen

Massasauga Trip: Rangers Joe Smothers and Dave Baum traveled to the Georgian Bay region of Ontario, Canada to meet with other Federal, State and private agencies within the home range of the eastern massasauga rattlesnake to learn more about the stewardship practices and public outreach programs employed by these groups. Also in attendance were Tom Keevin from PM-EA, Gary Tatham and John Bunnell from Hazlet State Park, Judith Joy from the Centralia Sentinel newspaper and Warren Dempsey from the Carlyle Union Banner newspaper. The group met with representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Killbear Provincial Park, Ojibway Nature Centre of Windsor, Ontario and the Toronto Zoo. The meetings were held to learn about success stories and positive public outreach programs to enhance the public image of the snake, which in turn will translate into a better chance it's survival in the Carlyle Lake region.

The eastern massasauga rattlesnake has been listed as an Illinois state endangered species since 1994, and recently became a federal endangered species candidate as a result of declining populations throughout its range. The snake has received a great deal of attention at Carlyle Lake and has been blamed for stopping a resort development project at the South Shore State Park. Most recently the snake has been blamed for reducing the recreational and economic

value of Carlyle Lake.

The Carlyle Lake and district staffs, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, are in the process of finalizing the Carlyle Lake Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Management Plan.

The North Star Newspaper from Parry Sound, Ontario and CTV, a Canadian television station from Gravenhurst, Ontario interviewed Joe Smothers.

Front row left to right:
John Bunnell-IDNR,
Dave Baum-COE, Warren
Dempsey-Union Banner
Back row: Joe
Smothers-COE, Gary
Tatham-IDNR, Tom
Keevin-COE, Judith Joy-
Centralia Sentinel



Historical Medieval Re-Creations Inc., a non-profit historical, educational, and recreational group, presented a Memorial Day re-enactment of the period 1150 AD to 1550 AD through tournament style armored combat and displaying items of historical significance. Combat ranged from wooden practice swords (shinai) and rapiers to combat among well-trained warriors in full armor using real swords, axes, and spears, all striving for the hallowed goal of Knighthood. The arts were also an active and vital part of this period and artisans also presented their craftwork in competition. This group per-



forms educational demonstrations for schools and groups throughout the country to preserve the best traditions of this fascinating period of history.

Arts & Ecology Series at Carlyle Lake

Sunday, July 15th: 2:00 p.m. Mammals of Illinois - Carlyle Lake Visitor Center

Discover all the different and exciting kinds of mammals that live in Illinois. Presented by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Sunday, August 26th 2:00 p.m. Outback Ed - Carlyle Lake Visitor Center. Learn about the different reptiles and amphibians of the world. Live animals presented. Presented by the St. Louis Herpetology Society.

Cannon Dam Safety Training

By Travis Tutka

On 25 July the District staff will conduct dam safety training for the Mark Twain Lake staff. This training is conducted at all district lakes every four years. The training focuses on what historically has failed dams and advises the project staff of what to look for to gain additional time to enact repairs prior to failure or at least to gain more time to evacuate and minimize loss of life. The historical performance of Cannon Dam and lessons learned from other dams will be discussed. Although a major flood in 1981 breached a cofferdam and flooded the embankment construction site, Cannon Dam has not experienced any critical dam safety problems since impoundment began in 1983. This



continuous excellent performance unfortunately breeds complacency. The Corps of Engineers fights this tendency in many ways with a thorough dam safety program. The upcoming dam safety training will refresh the project staff in the skills needed to monitor the dam. The training will also refresh their motivation to keep watching and waiting for something we hope will never happen.

Crack in a dam — an example of what to look for during a dam safety inspection.

April EOM

Tom Miller, long-time Lockmaster at Melvin Price Locks and Dann was selected as April 2001 employee of the month. (Photo not available). Tom's efforts were critical to maintaining exemplary locks and dam operations during the winter months despite extreme and challenging working conditions. Beginning with extensive ice operations in December and continuing with the failure of the miter gate in January, Tom closely coordinated with both USACE assets and industry to maximize the functionality of the lock system. He coordinated with Rock Island District to remove the damaged gate and continued high levels of traffic through the auxiliary lock while repairs continued on the main lock's gate.

Tom worked many long hours and weekends under trying and frequently severe winter conditions. He has always motivated his team to maintain the highest level of customer service and has always been quick to give the credit to his team. Tom's long record of dedication and leadership by example are noteworthy. The entire district recognizes and thanks Tom for his successful efforts on this critical repair project and on his ongoing service to the District, the navigation industry and to the nation.

TIPS FROM THE RM TEAM

By Chris Bonucchi

The **Mass Transportation Program** was implemented February 2001. We currently have 156 participants.

Background: *Executive Order 13150 requires Federal agencies to establish transportation fringe benefit programs in order to reduce Federal employees' contribution to traffic congestion and air pollution and to expand their commuting alternatives. The purpose of the program is to provide financial incentives to members/employees to encourage commuting by mass transportation.*

Who can participate in the program? Any government employee, military or civilian. Members of Reserve Components serving on active duty also are eligible.

How do I apply? Mass Transit Application forms are available in RM-F. Return completed forms to RM-F by the 5th working day of each month to make the cut-off for the following month.

Do I have to re-apply every month? No, only once a year. However you need to notify RM immediately if you are dropping out of the program.

Each Bi-State bus or metro-link user is issued a monthly pass which is accepted as full fare on MetroLink and all Missouri and St. Clair local and express service and Madison County local service. Madison County Express service users are issued Madison County commuter ticket booklets.

You must sign for your pass or tickets when you pick them up to certify that:

- (1) You are a federal employee.
- (2) You are not named on a work site parking permit with your agency or any other Federal agency.
- (3) You will be using it for your regular daily commute to and/or from work, and will not transfer it to anyone else.

If you participate in a vanpool you qualify for this program if the pool is owned and operated by public transit authorities or by a person in the business of transporting persons for compensation or hire. The van must seat at least six adults (excluding the driver).

What is the new mileage rate for local and TDY travel? Effective 22 January 2001 the mileage rate is as follows:

Privately owned automobile	\$0.345
Privately owned motorcycle	\$0.275
Privately owned airplane	\$0.965

The availability of Government vehicles affects these rates. For example, the JTR states that “**if the employee requests to use a POC and the agency has a Government-furnished automobile available, the mileage reimbursement is at the rate of 10.5 cents a mile.**”

Also, you **must coordinate with other employees** in your division or office regarding reservations for government vehicles to attend meetings or conferences held within the district (for example at one of the field sites). If you as the employee are authorized transportation in a Government-furnished vehicle as a passenger, or as a driver with one or more other employees, but you chose to drive your own car, you are not entitled to any reimbursement for use of your POC. Please contact Anne Woodrome in LM for details.

ENERGY SURCHARGE: Be aware of a new rule affecting travelers: Hotels in some states (especially California) have begun adding an energy surcharge to their daily room charge. These energy surcharges are fully reimbursable and should be shown in the miscellaneous section of your travel voucher.